

passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Harrison County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Harrison County worth over \$3.6 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$6.8 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be its successful use of several Main Street Iowa grants for facade restoration and other building renovations in downtown Woodbine, and redevelopment of the Moore's Block in Dunlap.

Among the highlights:

**Main Street Iowa:** One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This is not just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Woodbine and Dunlap to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Harrison County has earned \$148,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

**School grants:** Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Harrison County has received over \$3.35 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Harrison County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$20,000.

**Agricultural and rural development:** Because I grew up in a small town in

rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Harrison County has received more than \$3.5 from a variety of farm bill programs.

**Keeping Iowa communities safe:** I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Harrison County's fire departments have received over \$1.19 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

**Disability Rights:** Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Harrison County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Harrison County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Harrison County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SUSAN ALLER-SCHILLING

● **Mr. HELLER.** Mr. President, today I wish to honor Major Susan Aller-Schilling, a devoted and history-making member of the Nevada Highway Patrol, NHP.

Major Aller-Schilling has served with Nevada's Department of Public Safety for more than 16 years. Rising to the rank of lieutenant before transferring to the NHP, Major Aller-Schilling is the first female trooper in the agency's history to achieve the ranking title of major.

Supporting Nevada's citizens through a tireless dedication to their safety, Major Aller-Schilling has served a vast majority of the State from Las Vegas to Reno, where she has diligently performed as an operations commander since last year. As a major, she will oversee more than 2,560 sworn and civilian personnel.

Today, the NHP boasts well over 300 commissioned officers, each dedicated to ensuring safe, economical, and enjoyable use of the highways. Protecting citizens and assisting law enforcement agencies throughout our State and the Nation are just a few of the services these servicemen selflessly provide.

Aligned with the NHP's mission of protecting safety, Major Aller-Schilling's loyalty and dedication to community well-being has been described as exceptional. Her example of hard work and dedication to a cause greater than herself is demonstrated by this elevation of her rank—the first of its kind. I am grateful for Major Aller-Schilling's character and the role model she is for our State.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Major Aller-Schilling for her steadfast loyalty and dedication to the Great State of Nevada.●

#### BATTLE OF KENNESAW MOUNTAIN SESQUICENTENNIAL

● **Mr. ISAKSON.** Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Georgia's Battle of Kennesaw Mountain that took place on June 27, 1864, and was an important moment in the Civil War's Atlanta campaign.

The Civil War had been underway for more than 3 years when GEN William T. Sherman began his movement south of Chattanooga, TN. Sherman's troops moved south following the general path of the Western and Atlantic Railroad. By mid-June, both the Union and Confederate armies were in the vicinity of Kennesaw Mountain. Both sides had to struggle with a common enemy—rain—that continued for 2½ weeks. From June 4 through June 18, 1864, southern GEN Joseph E. Johnston surprised Sherman by defending a line running from Lost Mountain to Brushy Mountain. A series of attacks on this line forced Johnston to draw back to the Kennesaw line on June 19, 1864. Using Kennesaw Mountain as the anchor for

his line, Johnston's forces prepared a strong defensive position blocking the likely avenues of approach Sherman would use to continue his advance toward Marietta and subsequently to Atlanta.

Following a tactical approach that had been successful throughout the spring, the Union army moved some of its forces to the Confederates' left flank. The Confederates countered and moved one of their corps from the right to the left of their line. Acting without orders from Johnston, John Bell Hood ordered his forces to attack the Union troops. Charging across Valentine Kolb's fields, the Confederates met a devastating combination of artillery and infantry fire from entrenched Union troops. This caused the Confederates to retreat and dig in. Although the attack led to costly casualties for the Confederates it prevented the Union from advancing toward Marietta. It also forced Sherman to change tactics and order a frontal assault on June 27, 1864.

Sherman's troops bombarded the Confederate positions on the morning of June 27 and then advanced along the base of Kennesaw Mountain. The Confederates repulsed this diversionary attack. Rough terrain and a stubborn defense obstructed the Union assault at Pigeon Hill that subsequently fell apart after a couple of hours. At Cheatham Hill, the heaviest fighting occurred along a stretch in the Confederate line dubbed "Dead Angle" by Confederate defenders. Union troops made a desperate effort to storm the Confederate trenches. However, the rough terrain and intense Confederate fire combined to defeat the Union army. Within hours, the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain was over. Union casualties numbered some 3,000 men while the Confederates lost 1,000, making it one of the bloodiest single days in the campaign for Atlanta.

In 1899, a lieutenant of the 86th Illinois Infantry purchased 60 acres at Cheatham Hill, the site of the most deadly encounter at Kennesaw Mountain. The land was later transferred to the Kennesaw Memorial Association, which received \$20,000 from the State of Illinois to construct a monument on Cheatham Hill to honor the soldiers of the 86th Illinois Regiment who died there. On June 27, 1914, the 50th anniversary of the battle, a marble monument was unveiled and dedicated to those fallen men. In 1917, the land was deeded to the United States government and 9 years later, in 1926, the U.S. Congress passed a law that placed the area under the protection of the War Department.

In 1935, legislation was passed creating Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park on the original 60 acres purchased by the lieutenant of the 86th Illinois Infantry. Today, the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park consists of nearly 3,000 acres where visitors enjoy 19.7 miles of trails and can see historic earthworks, can-

non emplacements, interpretive signs, and three monuments representing States that fought in this momentous battle.●

#### ARAGON, GEORGIA

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the Centennial of the city of Aragon, GA, on July 23, 2014.

During the past 100 years, Aragon has seen both good times and difficult times. Through periods of growth, economic struggle and social change, the leaders and residents of Aragon have upheld their commitment to remaining a city.

The origin of the city's name of Aragon has been widely disputed by historians. Some claim that Aragon was named after the Hotel Aragon located on Peachtree Street in Atlanta, GA, where some of the mill owners stayed when visiting the area. Others believe the city was named for the mineral aragonite that was mined nearby.

The city of Aragon was founded in 1899 in Polk County, GA. The city charter was adopted on July 23, 1914, and was approved by Georgia Governor John M. Slaton. The first three commissioners were Fred O. Myers, J.H. Arnold and R.L. Huckabe.

The city was established in 1898 in northwest Georgia following the construction of a mill by Wolcott and Campbell of New York. Over the years, numerous additions and improvements were made to the mill, which employed hundreds of workers and contributed to the livelihood of many families in the community. The mill closed for good in 1994 and remained empty until 1998 when it was purchased by brothers Brian and Kirk Spears and used as a production facility for pillows and wooden pallets until August 6, 2002, when fire engulfed and decimated the complex.

At the time of this centennial celebration, the local government is vested in Mayor Ken Suffridge and Councilmen Curtis Burrus, Mayor Pro Tem Duell Mitchell, Kevin Prewett and Hunter Spinks. They are dedicated to ensuring the city and its citizens are ready for tomorrow's challenges, and remain loyal to its motto, "A Proud Past With A Promising Future."

I congratulate the residents of Aragon, GA, on their centennial year and wish them great success with observances that raise awareness of and appreciation for the city of Aragon's contributions to the development and vitality of Polk County, GA. I hope that residents will use this year as an opportunity to learn more about the rich history of their community.●

#### RECOGNIZING CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the outstanding work of Concerns for Police Survivors C.O.P.S. for 30 years of dedicated service to the families of

America's fallen law enforcement officers.

Suzie Sawyer founded the organization 30 years ago as a small grief support organization. In 1993, the organization relocated to Camdenton, MO, where it has grown to serve over 30,000 surviving law enforcement families from all over the United States. The organization now has 50 national chapters and a multimillion dollar yearly budget that is used to host annual seminars, retreats, and provide resources for the surviving families and coworkers of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

I thank Suzie Sawyer for her dedication to this important cause, and I thank C.O.P.S. for 30 years of providing invaluable support to grieving law enforcement families and coworkers.●

#### TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN SMITH-TALLAN

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the achievements of Ms. Vivian E. "Bo" Smith-Tallan. During her years of service, Ms. Smith demonstrated tireless dedication to her country, and specifically to Fairchild Air Force Base and the greater Spokane area.

Ms. Smith-Tallan, who hails from Maryland, entered the Air Force in 1976 directly out of high school. She retired from the Air Force as a master sergeant after serving for 20 years on active duty. Ms. Smith-Tallan completed a degree in law enforcement and is a graduate of the Spokane County Police Academy. Prior to her present position, she was a police officer with the Medical Lake Police Department and bailiff for the Airway Heights courts system.

While on Active Duty in the law enforcement career field, Ms. Smith-Tallan served in numerous capacities including gate guard, patrolman, investigator, pass and registration non-commissioned officer in charge, and flight chief. Her talent earned her a selection as the first female motorcycle patrolman. In 1992 she was assigned as the treaty compliance superintendent and finalized Fairchild Air Force Base's role under the START Treaty in which B-52s were removed from assignment to the base. From there she was assigned as the wing protocol superintendent until her retirement from Active Duty in 1996.

Ms. Smith-Tallan then began serving at Fairchild Air Force Base as a Department of Defense civilian. Through the following 18 years she led an office of 12 airmen as the wing chief of protocol and public relations, consistently ensuring that Fairchild presented a welcoming and professional environment to visitors and the local community.

As chief of protocol she planned, evaluated, and led the arrangements,